

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00429 011448Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7606

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, RO

SUBJECT: GLOBAL MARINE INTEREST IN ROMANIA

REF: STATE 020897

1. LAST VISIT OF GLOBAL MARINE REPRESENTATIVES TO ROMANIA TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 10, 1973 WHEN WM. RADER, VP FOR EXPLORATION ADN ROBERT PARKER, CORPORATE ATTORNEY CALLED ON ROMANIAN FTO'S AND MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM TO DISCUSS SERVICE CONTRACT FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION. AT THAT TIME, FTO TOLD GLOBAL MARINE THAT BID DEADLINE HAD BEEN EXTENDED BEYOND PREVIOUSLY FIXED DATE OF NOVEMBER 30 IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE GLOBAL INTEREST. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT GOR STILL ACCEPTING PROPOSALS. (GULF OIL REP, WORKING OUT OF LONDON, IS IN BUCHAREST NOW DISCUSSING SAME PROJECT.) OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GLOBAL MARINE DISAPPOINTED WITH LIMITED SEISMIC DATA WHICH ROMANIANS MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM, AND WHICH MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE PROJECT ACCURATELY.

2. GLOBAL MARINE ALSO DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATIVE VENTURES WITH ROMANIANS IN THIRD COUNTRIES BUT REACHED NO DEFINITE AGREEMENT IN THIS AREA.

3. IN OUR OPINION FINAL DECISION ON OFFSHORE EXPLORATION PROJECT WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. OIL AND ENERGY CRISIS THROWS NEW FACTOR INTO CONSIDERATIONS FOR THIS AND OTHER PROJECTS AND EFFECTS WILL TAKE TIME TO EVALUATE BOTH FOR BIDDING FIRMS AS WELL AS FOR GOR. SOME U.S. COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY SHOWN CHANGING ATTITUDES IN THEIR APPROACH TO OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AND CONSTANTA
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00429 011448Z

PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX PROJECTS.

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